

Tessa Kosta Gives Views on Music of Two Countries

Viennese Composition Easier to Sing Than Ours, She Says.

Miss Tessa Kosta managed to squeeze in an interview last week on American and Viennese music just before the evening performance of "The Rose of Stamboul," kindly chaperoned by Ben Atwell, the mahout of the Century Theatre.

"My present role is at once easier and more difficult than my preceding one in 'The Chocolate Soldier,'" said Miss Kosta, appearing from her dressing room and making the corridor all fluffy with her filmy costume and her glossy hair. Of course she didn't burst right out with this. The reporter had to drop a diplomatic question first, after the manner of slick interviewers. Then she began her talk with the aforementioned quotation, properly uttering a paradox, which is the way all interviews should commence.

Her present role, as near as the interviewer can remember, is *Princess Tosca*, or something equally good. So far, so good. Miss Kosta was now busy elucidating her valuable paradox.

"The role is easier in that I'm not on the stage so much, so you can easily see I have less to do. I used to think I was on so much in 'The Chocolate Soldier' that the audience would rise up and shout that they were tired of seeing me."

"On the other hand," continued Miss Kosta, "the character is lighter, so I have to work harder to fill in the gaps with my own personality."

"I like to play straight roles. It was great fun to play comedy in 'The Chocolate Soldier,' after the eternally sweet roles I'd been putting up with. In fact I'd rather play such parts, and some day I hope to appear in a piece that will be mainly comedy, with a good plot and with a few songs to stir things up a bit occasionally. Musical plays ought to be more of that variety, instead of being just bits of this and that."

"Miss Kosta is of Hungarian descent," said the helpful Squire Atwell, "so she ought to know her way about in any opera from Vienna."

"Yes," acknowledged Miss Kosta, "my mother's people were on the stage and in opera in Hungary for several generations back, while my father was connected with the scientific side. Odd, but how true. So here I am."

"Did you ever sing abroad?" asked the interviewer.

"No," said Miss Kosta promptly.

"That was mean of you to say 'No,'" remarked the reporter. "It spoiled another question you were to be asked."

After sufficient coaxing from Miss Kosta, the interviewer consented to propound this question: "What is the chief difference between Viennese and American music?"

"Viennese music is easier to sing," replied Miss Kosta quickly. "The composers over there know their subject thoroughly and are writing for well-trained, matured voices, while here composers are writing for girls of 15 or so who have the leading parts but who can't be trusted with high notes; their voices aren't sufficiently matured—and it takes time to ripen anything."

"American compositions to-day are touched so much with jazz, and jazz is harder to sing than the hardest classical piece. That's because jazz isn't music; different vocal cords are used and it's just a sort of syncopated straining. It tears the best voice to tatters eventually. Many American singers don't enunciate distinctly, but neither for that matter do many foreigners. People don't realize this because when they go to an opera they don't understand what the singer is saying anyway. While clear articulation is largely an inner affair, artists do not enunciate indistinctly because they don't realize that singing is only another form of speaking." And Miss Kosta proved this by shifting her vocal gears and adding in the phrase "they could go on like this-forever," as if it were the refrain of a song.

AT SUBURBAN PARKS.

Starlight Amusement Park in The Bronx is open for the season with its usual array of rides, games, shows, free open air vaudeville, Baretta's Concert Band, dance hall with the Synopsa-Jazz Orchestra, athletic field and many new features. Tom Gillen's vaudeville program for the opening week includes the Nemon, on bars and Spanish rings, the Vincent Brothers Three on horizontal bars and Fitz and Witz, comedy acrobats. Gertrude Van Dine, soprano, will sing with Baretta's Band every afternoon and night.

George C. Tilyou's Steeplechase Park, Coney Island, is expected to attract another throng this afternoon and evening. One of the largest radio receiving stations has been installed in the main pavilion, and those who have seen enough of the many amusement attractions of the park may visit the radio room and enjoy a concert. It will be possible for this station to listen to the ocean going steamers many miles at sea. Rimbo, the smallest clown in the world, has returned to Steeplechase after a tour of Japan. He has a complete set of new tricks for the season.

"BLUSHING BRIDE" TO MOVE.

"The Blushing Bride," the musical comedy in which Cecil Lean and Miss Glee Mayfield are costars, will move to the Forty-fourth Street Theatre tomorrow night, after a three months' stay at the Astor Theatre.

THEATRE GUILD PRODUCTIONS

LAST WEEK:

BACK TO METHUSELAH
By BENARD SHAW
GARRICK 14 WEST 14TH STREET
1st performance Mon. 1st & 2nd, 8:15. 3rd, 8:30. 4th, 8:45. 5th, 9:00. 6th, 9:15. 7th, 9:30. 8th, 9:45. 9th, 10:00. 10th, 10:15. 11th, 10:30. 12th, 10:45. 13th, 11:00. 14th, 11:15. 15th, 11:30. 16th, 11:45. 17th, 12:00. 18th, 12:15. 19th, 12:30. 20th, 12:45. 21st, 1:00. 22nd, 1:15. 23rd, 1:30. 24th, 1:45. 25th, 2:00. 26th, 2:15. 27th, 2:30. 28th, 2:45. 29th, 3:00. 30th, 3:15. 31st, 3:30. 32nd, 3:45. 33rd, 4:00. 34th, 4:15. 35th, 4:30. 36th, 4:45. 37th, 5:00. 38th, 5:15. 39th, 5:30. 40th, 5:45. 41st, 6:00. 42nd, 6:15. 43rd, 6:30. 44th, 6:45. 45th, 7:00. 46th, 7:15. 47th, 7:30. 48th, 7:45. 49th, 8:00. 50th, 8:15. 51st, 8:30. 52nd, 8:45. 53rd, 9:00. 54th, 9:15. 55th, 9:30. 56th, 9:45. 57th, 10:00. 58th, 10:15. 59th, 10:30. 60th, 10:45. 61st, 11:00. 62nd, 11:15. 63rd, 11:30. 64th, 11:45. 65th, 12:00. 66th, 12:15. 67th, 12:30. 68th, 12:45. 69th, 1:00. 70th, 1:15. 71st, 1:30. 72nd, 1:45. 73rd, 2:00. 74th, 2:15. 75th, 2:30. 76th, 2:45. 77th, 3:00. 78th, 3:15. 79th, 3:30. 80th, 3:45. 81st, 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